

Public Involvement Meeting Handout

**WIS 23
Fond du Lac/Jackson Street
City of Ripon
Fond du Lac County**

Project ID: 1430-29-00



November 17, 2025

This handout and other items will be available on the project's design website which can be found on the Northeast Region Highway Projects and Studies page at

<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/ne/23ripon/default.aspx>

Thank you for your interest in this project. We look forward to your feedback.

Purpose of handout

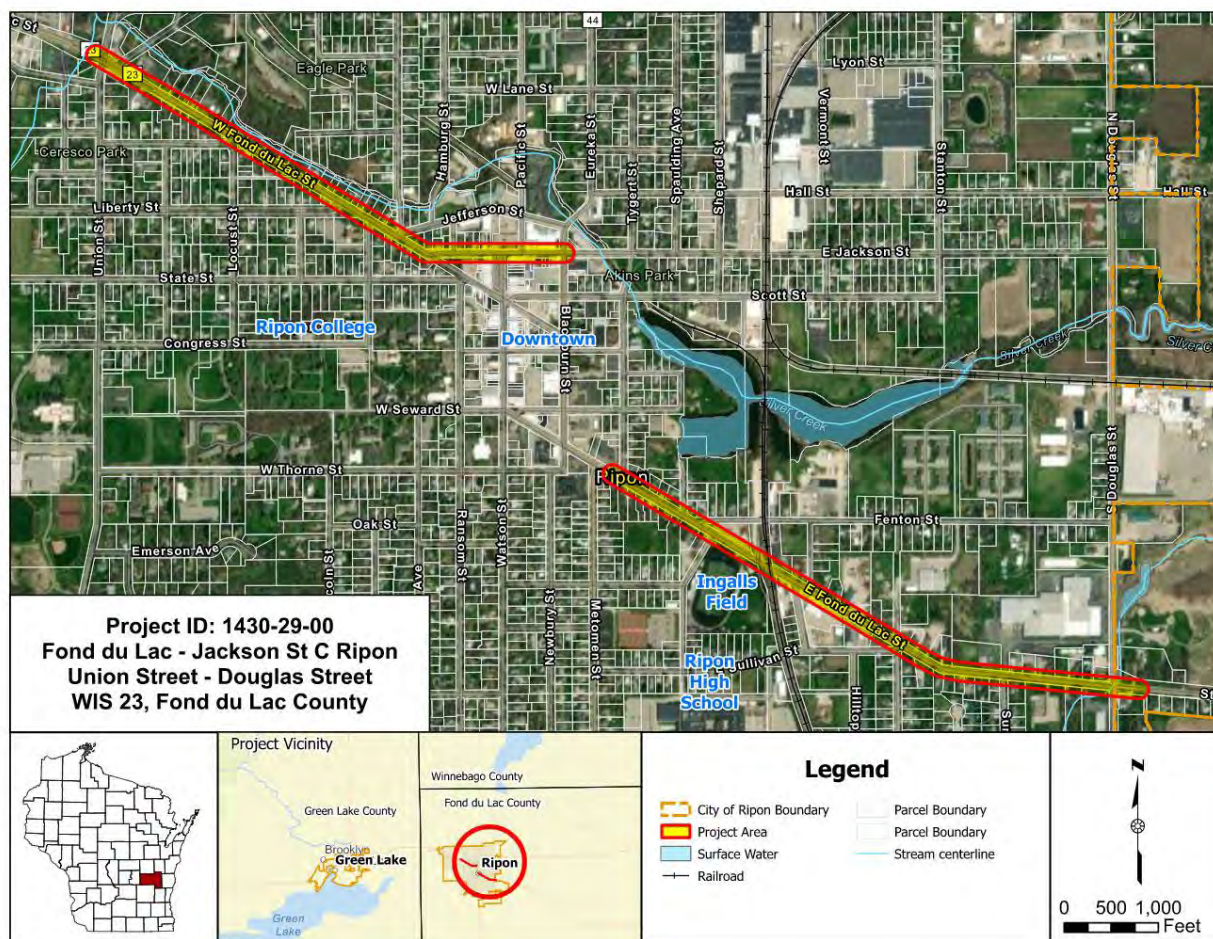
The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is in the process of investigating and developing alternatives for proposed improvements on approximately 1.5 miles of WIS 23 in the city of Ripon, Fond du Lac County. The purpose of this handout is to provide information regarding the alternatives being considered, describe the potential impacts it would have on the community, and offer an opportunity for public comment.

Public input/comments

Your comments assist us in developing a project that will serve the needs of the traveling public as well as the needs of the local community. All comments are welcomed and appreciated throughout the design process. Included at the end of this handout, as well as on the project website, is a comment form that may be used for written comments regarding the alternatives under consideration. You are encouraged to fill out this form and return using the pre-paid mailer attached. Comments may also be submitted via email or phone to any of the contacts listed below.

Project location

WIS 23 proposed project corridor is approximately 1.5 miles total with limits between Union Street to Douglas Street (see circled limits below). The project is broken into two sections.



Section 1 is located on West Fond du Lac Street from Union Street to Jackson Street and on Jackson Street from West Fond Lac Street to Blackburn Street. Section 2 is located on East Fond du Lac Street from Metomen Street to east of Douglas Street.

The segment of the WIS 23 corridor between Sections 1 and 2 from Blackburn Street to Metomen Street is not included with this proposed project as it was improved in 2006.

WIS 23 is known locally as West Fond du Lac Street, East Jackson Street, Blackburn Street, and East Fond du Lac Street.

Project purpose and need

The purpose of the project is to restore the ride quality of the existing deteriorated pavement and upgrade other roadway deficiencies on WIS 23 through the city of Ripon.

The existing WIS 23 pavement is showing signs of distress and deterioration and has been patched numerous times. The road is exhibiting raveled longitudinal joints and cracks, joint faulting, and surface spall. In Wisconsin, pavement distress is measured by the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) which provides a scaled measurement (Good – Failed) of the distress observed on the pavement surface. Higher values indicate better conditions with 0 as the worst possible condition and 100 as the best. The PCI is calculated based on the results of a detailed pavement distress survey that identifies pavement distress type, distress severity and distress quantity. The PCI for WIS 23 has a condition rating as low 43, indicating pavement that is considered Very Poor, or one level above Serious.

Further, the existing underground utilities (storm sewer, sanitary sewer and water facilities) are deteriorating and curb ramps along the project are not compliant with the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Additionally, several legal pedestrian crossing areas do not have any curb ramps.

The Douglas Street intersection is experiencing crashes due to drivers failing to yield to oncoming traffic and are getting confused by vehicle lane positions when entering the intersection.

The existing Wisconsin & Southern Railroad at-grade railroad crossing surface is reaching the end of its useful service life and needs to be replaced.

Anticipated benefits

The proposed improvements will include the following benefits:

- Provide motorists with a smoother riding surface resulting in less wear on vehicles.
- Decreased annual maintenance costs for the city saving taxpayer dollars.
- Improved accessibility for pedestrians by bringing the curb ramps into compliance with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) and PROWAG (Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines) standards.

- Replacement of the aging underground utilities prior to roadway paving
- Safety improvements at the at-grade railroad crossing
- Safety and operational improvements at intersection of Douglas Street
- Improved bike and pedestrian accommodations.

Proposed Improvements/Scope of Work

All sections of WIS 23 described below will include the following proposed work:

- Replacement of the existing concrete pavement and curb & gutter.
- Reconstruction of the curb ramps to current ADA and PROWAG standards.
- Inclusion of on-street bike accommodations.
- Replacement of the existing storm sewer system.

The city is responsible for the cost of construction of the parking lanes. Thus, the city's cost share for the construction of the street (curb to curb) is reduced when parking lanes are narrowed and eliminated when parking lanes are not constructed. WisDOT is responsible for the cost of the driving, turning and bike lanes.

West Fond du Lac Street (Union Street – Jackson Street)

The existing footprint of the street will be narrowed as the existing four-lane (48' face-of-curb to face-of-curb) street will be replaced with a three-lane (46' face-of-curb to face-of-curb) street with a center two-way left turn lane (TWLTL). The existing concrete pavement and curb & gutter will be replaced to provide an 11-foot driving lane and 5-foot bike lane in each direction with a center 14-foot TWLTL. The westbound bike lane will end just prior to the Union Street intersection. The eastbound bike lane will begin just to the west of the intersection of Park Street.

West Fond du Lac Street/Jackson Street Intersection

The existing Y-intersection will be reconfigured to T-intersection as shown in the image below.



Jackson Street (West Fond du Lac Street – Blackburn Street)

The existing concrete pavement and curb & gutter will be replaced to provide an 11-foot driving lane and 5-foot bike lane in each direction between West Fond du Lac Street and Blackburn Street.

West of Harris Street, the street will have a 36-foot face-of-curb to face-of-curb width.

From Harris Street to Blackburn Street, the existing 48' face-of-curb to face-of-curb footprint of the street will remain the same except for the areas where curb bump outs are constructed and parking is prohibited. An 8-foot parking lane will be included on both sides of Jackson Street.

Curb bump outs will be constructed at Harris Street, Watson Street and Pacific Street intersections.

Harris Street Closure Alternative

One alternative under consideration at the intersection of Jackson Street and Harris Street (shown in the image below) is to:

- Remove the connection of Harris Street to Jackson Street
- Construct a cul-de-sac on Harris Street from Jefferson Street



East Fond du Lac Street (Metomen Street – St. Wenceslaus Street)

The existing 44' face-of-curb to face-of-curb footprint of the street will be narrowed to 38 feet as parking will be removed on both sides of the street. The existing concrete pavement and curb & gutter will be replaced to provide a 12-foot driving lane and 5-foot bike lane in each direction. The narrowing of the street footprint will increase the width of the grass terrace on both sides of the street. The increase in terrace widths will vary due to the alignment of the street.

East Fond du Lac Street (St. Wenceslaus Street – Sullivan Street)

The existing 44' face-of-curb to face-of-curb footprint of the street will remain the same except for the areas where curb bump outs are constructed and parking is prohibited. However, the existing concrete pavement and curb & gutter will be replaced to provide a 12-foot driving lane and 5-foot bike lane in each direction and on the south side only an 8-foot parking lane.

The existing Wisconsin Southern Railroad at-grade railroad crossing will be reconstructed.

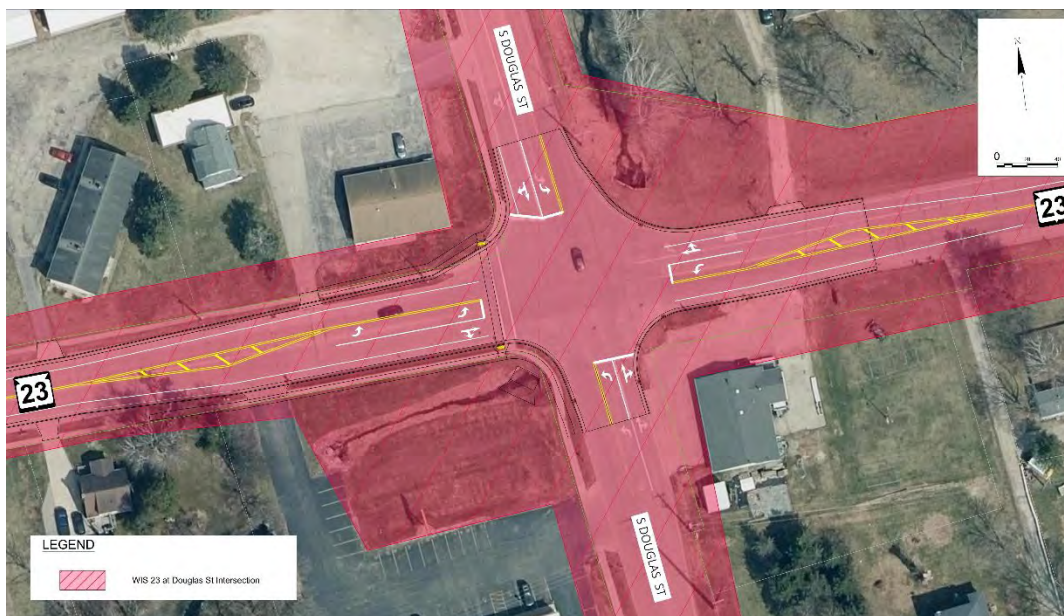
Curb bump outs will be constructed at St. Wenceslaus Street, Commercial Street, Grant Street and Sullivan Street intersections.

East Fond du Lac Street (Sullivan Street - Douglas Street)

The existing 44' face-of-curb to face-of-curb footprint of the street will be narrowed to 38 feet as parking will be removed on both sides of the street. The existing concrete pavement and curb & gutter will be replaced to provide a 12-foot driving lane and 5-foot bike lane in each direction. The narrowing of the street footprint will increase the width of the grass terrace on both sides of the street. The increase in terrace widths will vary due to the alignment of the street.

Douglas Street Intersection

The Douglas Street intersection has experienced crashes due to drivers failing to yield to oncoming traffic and getting confused by vehicle lane positions when entering the intersection. Three alternatives (maintain the existing geometry, add offset right turn lanes on WIS 23, add left turn lanes on WIS 23) were investigated. The recommended alternative is reconstructing the intersection to provide a dedicated left-turn lane on the west and east approaches to the intersection for traffic wanting to turn left at Douglas Street. No change in traffic control is being proposed at the intersection at this time.



Connecting Highways

Connecting highways are local streets and roads that carry state highway travel through cities and villages. Connecting Highway Aids help local governments maintain these streets and roads at state trunk highway (STH) system standards and compensate local governments for the incremental costs of through-traffic routed over municipal streets.

WIS 23 within the city of Ripon from the intersection of Arcade Glen Road to the intersection of Douglas Street is currently a connecting highway. No change in connecting highway status for WIS 23 will occur because of this project. The city of Ripon will continue to own and maintain West Fond du Lac Street, Jackson Street and East Fond du Lac Street upon completion of the project.

You can find more information regarding Wisconsin's Connecting Highways on the web at <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/data-plan/plan-res/connecting.aspx>

Traffic impacts

The anticipated impacts to traffic during construction may include:

- Potential long-term closure and detour during construction.
- Access to businesses and properties would be maintained during construction.
- A pedestrian detour would be marked to accommodate pedestrian access that is impacted by construction activities at the curb ramps and on sidewalks and crosswalks.

Schedule

- Investigation and evaluation of alternatives: 2024 - 2025
- Environmental document approved: Fall 2026
- Final Design: 2026 – 2029
- Real Estate Acquisition: 2027 - 2028
- Utility Relocations: 2029
- Roadway construction is currently scheduled for 2030

Real estate

Temporary Limited Easements (TLE) and some fee acquisition will be required for replacing the curb ramps and sidewalk. The actual amount of real estate needs for the project will be better defined as the proposed improvements are refined during the next phase of the project.

Business Resource: WisDOT's In This Together program

WisDOT recognizes businesses located in work zones or impacted by detour routes have special needs. WisDOT's In This Together program is offered to business, organizations and community leaders as an idea source as they plan for road construction in their area. It includes promotional examples, case studies and a specially designed Business Coordination Guide with information on:

- Planning ahead
- Staying informed
- Keeping customers informed

- Tips for businesses
- Temporary signing for businesses

WisDOT's In This Together website is located at www.wisconsindot.gov/Together

Public input/comments

Please submit comments to WisDOT using one of the following methods so that we receive them **by December 8, 2025**, to be considered during design.

1. Fill out the comment form attached to this document and mail to WisDOT using the prepaid mailer.
2. Email comments or questions to the contacts listed below.
3. Call one of the contacts below.

Project contacts

Ryan Erdmann, P.E.
Project Manager
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
944 Vanderperren Way
Green Bay, WI 54304
Phone: (920) 492-3517
Email: ryand.erdmann@dot.wi.gov

Missy Kok
Region Communications Manager
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
944 Vanderperren Way
Green Bay, WI 54304
Phone: (920) 492-5743
Email: melissa2.kok@dot.wi.gov

WisDOT Highway Project Public Comment Form

Project ID 1430-29-00
WIS 23
Fond du Lac/Jackson Street, City of Ripon
Fond du Lac County

Please place this form in the comment box or mail **by December 8, 2025**, to the address on the back of this sheet. Comments can also be e-mailed to ryand.erdmann@dot.wi.gov. Your comments assist us in developing a project that will serve the needs of the traveling public as well as the needs of the local community. Your input is welcome and appreciated throughout the design process.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime Phone Number (optional): _____

Email Address (optional): _____

Please Print Comments (attach additional sheets if necessary)

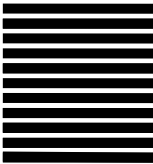
This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

The information in this document including names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and signatures is not confidential, and may be subject to disclosure upon request, pursuant to the requirements of the Wisconsin open records law, sections 19.31 - 19.39 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

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Attention: Ryan Erdmann, P.E.

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